

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 19 and 20 are amended.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 6.

Claims 1-3, 7-15, 17 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Osada et al. (Osada), U.S. Patent No. 5,230,549, and claims 1, 4, 5 and 7-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Oka et al. (Oka), U.S. Patent No. 6,568,768. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

For the reasons set forth in the February 20, 2007 Request for Reconsideration, Osada and Oka fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1, 19 and 20.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 19 and 20 have been amended to further clarify how the increasing and decreasing direction target control values are provided in claims 1, 19 and 20. Osada and Oka fail to disclose or suggest the additional features.

Osada's Fig. 4 illustrates the reactive force that is elastically produced by the elastomeric block 38 (col. 4, lines 43-65). Although the actual braking force in the increasing and decreasing direction would be different as asserted in the Advisory Action, Osada fails to provide any disclosure with regard to compensating for this difference or setting target control values in order to compensate for this difference for the advantages discussed in Applicant's invention. This similar reasoning applies to Oka.

It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: March 21, 2007

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